

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 16-29 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1-14 had been withdrawn from consideration based on the papers submitted on February 12, 2009 in response to the Restriction Requirement issued on November 12, 2008.

Claims 16 and 27 are independent claims.

Claim 15 had been cancelled in a prior communication.

Claims 9, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 26 and 27 have been amended.

Claims 16-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 16-25 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue (WO/2003/027999 or USP no. 7,071,635) in view of Akimoto (USPPA 2004/0004591). Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue and Akimoto and further in view of Cok (USPPA 2002/0175885).

Although claim 9 has been withdrawn from consideration at this time, claim 9 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, applicant thanks the Examiner for his observation and has endeavored to respond to the noted errors in form by either removing the objected-to language or amending the claims to recite the subject matter in better form.

However, with regard to the reason for rejecting the claims 17, 23 and 28 in paragraphs 11, 15 and 21, respectively, applicant respectfully disagrees with

and explicitly traverses the rejection of the claims.

With regard to the form of the matrix including the term "... " and not showing each element, applicant submits that such form is standardized representation of matrices that need show only the essential elements of the matrix. In this case, the matrix requires only diagonal elements and these values are adequately represented. In addition, the term "... " is used to express that the elements shown before and after the term "... " are repeated therebetween and, thus, the values in between the expressed values need not be explicitly shown. Use the term "... " is well-known and would be understood by those skilled in the art.

Furthermore, because the matrix form is applicable to systems with different number of rows and columns, an actual number of row and columns need not be shown. That is, the number of rows and columns may be variable dependent upon the size of the array, but such variability is not indefinite, as one skilled in the art would be able to expand, or contract, the matrix representation without undue experimentation.

In addition, claim 17, for example, further recites that the number of rows and columns of matrix M is equal to the number of pixels in the row.

Hence, the claim explicitly teaches one skilled in the art how to properly size the matrix M based on the number pixels in a row.

With regard to the terms "n" and "j", applicant submits that these are standardized mathematical terms to express variables within the context of an array of size "n" and, thus, the use of these expressions within the claims is well-known and recognized by those skilled in the art. Although the terms "n" and "j" represent variable values, these values are not indefinite as the term "n" relates to the number of pixels in a row and the term "j" represents an index of a pixel within a row.

Hence, one skilled in the art would understand and recognize the use of the term "n" and "j" in the formulas presented.

Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 17, 23 and 28 are in a form that

is definite as one skilled in the art would understand and recognize the content, and size, of the matrix M.

For the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection of the claims has been overcome.

With regard to the rejection of claims 16-25 and 27-29 applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the rejection of the claims.

Inoue discloses a flat panel display which comprises pixels arranged along drive lines, a voltage drop calculator for calculating a voltage drop occurring in accordance with the position of each pixel, and a video signal converter and a lookup table for correcting the input signal to be supplied to the pixel in accordance with the magnitude of the calculated voltage drop.

In rejecting the claims, the Office Action refers to Inoue teaching a compensation circuitry for modifying target pixel drive currents by taking account of a voltage on conductors associated with each row at each pixel and a dependency of a brightness characteristic associated with a corresponding pixel and means for applying an algorithm to the target pixel drive currents (referring to col. 4, line 60-col. 7, line 9) and means for scaling the target drive currents using a value representing the dependency of the pixel brightness characteristics on the voltage (referring to entire document, including col. 7, lines 10-49). The Office Action further acknowledges that Inoue discloses the adjustment being made at one end of a row conductor and refers to Akimoto for disclosing a power line row conductor driven at both ends.

However, contrary to the assertions made in the Office Action, Inoue fails to teach a system wherein the voltages at a pixel in a row are compensated for based on voltage drop and brightness as is recited in the claims. Rather, Inoue teaches a system wherein a voltage drop along a row conductor is compensated for so as to cause the brightness at a pixel to be a desired or expected value based on the initial input value.

With reference to col. 7, lines 10-49, which is referred to in the Office Action, Inoue teaches that "voltage drop values obtained at the respective points ... are fed to a video signal converter... By reference to the lookup table, the video signal converter converts the voltage drop value ... to a signal. Defined in the lookup table are the source-drain voltage-current relationship and the relationship between the base voltage and the source-drain current ... [T]he video signal converter converts the voltage drop value at each point to a current reduction of the second transistor ... and further to an increase in base voltage required to compensate for the current reduction ... In the case of the organic EL display device The input signal to each pixel is corrected in accordance with the voltage drop occurring in the drive line ... The pixel can therefore be caused to luminesce [sic] with luminance corresponding to the input signal despite the voltage drop..."

Thus, Inoue teaches that the adjustment to the voltage compensates for a voltage drop along the row conductor so as to achieve a brightness level at each pixel that corresponds to the input signal.

Nowhere does Inoue disclose a further adjustment based on the brightness characteristic, as is recited in the claims.

In this case, Inoue fails to teach a second level of adjustment, based on brightness, as is recited in the claims.

Akimoto discloses a system for providing uniformity of display luminance over large screens by disposing at least one of the input terminals for the power supply lines between input terminals. That is, Akimoto teaches that the input lines are distributed along the rows of pixel elements to provide substantially uniform voltage at each pixel.

Akimoto fails to disclose or suggest any compensation based on brightness, as is recited in the claims.

A claimed invention is prima facie obvious when three basic criteria are met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference

themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings therein. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And, third, the prior art reference or combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The Court in KSR v. Teleflex (citation omitted) has held that the teaching, suggestion and motivation test (TSM) is merely to be used as a helpful hint in determining obviousness and a bright light application of such a test is adverse to those factors for determining obviousness enumerated in Graham v. John Deere (i.e., the scope and content of the prior art, the level of ordinary skill in the art, the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art and objective indicia of non-obviousness) (citation omitted).

In this case, the combination of the cited references fails to disclose a material element recited in the independent claims, as neither of the cited references provides any teaching regarding a scaling based on a brightness, as is recited in the claims. Thus, the difference between the prior art and the subject matter claimed is significant and each of the aforementioned claims is not rendered obvious by the combination of the cited references.

With regard to the rejection of the remaining claims, each of these claims depends from one of the independent claims and, hence, are also not rendered obvious by the cited references by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable base claims.

With regard to the reject of claim 26, applicant submits that this claim depends from independent claim 16, which has been shown not to be obvious over the cited references. Cok fails to provide any teaching to correct the deficiency found to exist in the combination of Inoue and Akimoto.

Accordingly, claim 26 is also not rendered obvious by the combination of the cited references.

For the amendments made to the claims, as presented herein, and for the arguments provided in applicant's response to the currently outstanding Office Action, applicant submits that all claims are in an allowable form and that a issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant denies any statement, position or averment stated in the Office Action that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing. Any rejection and/or points of argument not addressed are moot in view of the presented arguments and no arguments are waived and none of the statements and/or assertions made in the Office Action is conceded.

Applicant makes no statement regarding the patentability of the subject matter recited in the claims prior to this Amendment and has amended the claims solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by the originally filed claims, as presented prior to this Amendment, and any additional claims in one or more continuing applications during the pendency of the instant application.

In order to advance the prosecution of the matter, applicant respectfully requests that any errors in form that do not alter the substantive nature of the arguments presented herein be transmitted telephonically to the applicant's representative so that such errors may be quickly resolved or pursuant to MPEP 714.03 be entered into the record to avoid continued delay of the prosecution of this matter any further.

MPEP 714.03 affords the Examiner the discretion, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.135 (c), to enter into the record a bona fide attempt to advance the application that includes minor errors in form.

"[a]n Examiner may treat an amendment not fully responsive to a non-final Office Action by: (A) accepting the amendment as an adequate reply to the non-final Office action to avoid abandonment ... (B) notifying the applicant that the reply must be completed... (C) setting a new time period for applicant to complete the reply ...

The treatment to be given to the amendment depends upon:

(A) whether the amendment is bona fide; (B) whether there is sufficient time for applicant's reply ... (C) the nature of the deficiency.

Where an amendment substantially responds to the rejections, objections or requirements in a non-final Office action (and is bona fide attempt to advance the application to final action) but contains a minor deficiency (e.g., fails to treat every rejection, objection or requirement), the examiner may simply act on the amendment and issue a new (non-final or final) Office action. The new Office action may simply reiterate the rejection, objection or requirement not addressed by the amendment (or otherwise indicate that such rejection, objection or requirement is no longer applicable).

This course of action would not be appropriate in instances in which an amendment contains a serious deficiency (e.g., the amendment is unsigned or does not appear to have been filed in reply to the non-final Office action)..."

However, if the Examiner believes that such minor errors in form cannot be entered into the record or that the disposition of any issues arising from this response may be best resolved by a telephone call, then the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below to resolve such minor errors or issues.

No fees are believed necessary for the timely filing of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,
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